



# CRANBERRY WEB

The Newsletter of the BC Cranberry Marketing Commission and the British Columbia Cranberry Growers Association

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## Industry Innovations Policy

Do you think you may have a good idea that would help cranberry growers? A new piece of equipment, modifying some current equipment, an innovation that could reduce production costs or save time or labour, something that could improve quality or yields.

If you have an idea that you think could benefit the industry, the Commission would like to hear about it and the Commission has a budget to help it along financially. Contact the Commission at the address noted in this Newsletter or contact any one of the Commissioners to discuss it.

## BC 08 Crop Report

While all data is not yet complete, BC's 2008 cranberry crop is down about 12.5 % from the 2007 crop and down 18% from the 2004 crop. 2008 BC production final figures will show the total crop at about 695,000 barrels. At the same time Wisconsin had a big crop of nearly 4 million barrels.

Washington State growers had similar yields, down significantly like ours, and a note in the Washington State University's "Cranberry Vine" says "No single weather factor can be totally linked to the crop decline, but obviously the cool spring delayed plant development beyond what the vines could compensate for during our slightly cooler than average summer."

## 2009 Cranberry Congress Notice

**The 2009 Cranberry Congress is set for Thursday, February 5th at Mayfair Lakes. An invitation with a program outline, is included in this mailing. Please RSVP to ensure you have a seat and to help us with the planning.**

## 2009 BCCMC AGM

**The 2009 Commission AGM will be held on Wednesday, February 18 at Mayfair Lakes, in conjunction with the Association. Please note the new Procedures for Election of a Commissioner.**

**An explanatory letter and a nomination form are included in this package.**



*cranberries*

Complete Project  
Report Available at  
[www.bccranberries.com/  
researchreports.html](http://www.bccranberries.com/researchreports.html)

The following is a brief summary of the Tipworm project undertaken by ES Crop-Consult in 2008 for the BC Cranberry industry. The complete report is posted on the Commission's website at [www.bccranberries.com/researchreports.html](http://www.bccranberries.com/researchreports.html)

Season long monitoring of egg, larval and pupal stages of cranberry tipworm, *Dasyneura oxycoccana*, was conducted in three cranberry beds. Two of the fields had previous history of tipworm infestation and the third has recently been infested. There were no consistent patterns among the three fields to suggest a definitive number of generations per season or even the timing of life stages. However in all three fields oviposition began shortly after the cranberry uprights began elongation. Because monitoring for tipworm is intensive, with cranberry uprights observed under the microscope, using crop phenology to time when to start monitoring will be more efficient. Once oviposition started, infestation levels did not reach the action threshold of 30% of sampled uprights infested with tipworm (eggs, larvae or pupae) until two to six weeks later, depending on the field. In this two to six week interval we recommend less intensive monitoring – either biweekly sampling or weekly sample but with fewer uprights checked per field. Infestation levels fluctuated at the 30% level for up to 12 weeks, into August and September. Since late-season upright damage by tipworm can potentially cause yield reduction in the subsequent year, sprays should be applied to minimize tipworm damage. Once the 30% infestation level is reached we recommend more intensive sampling, in order to time insecticide applications, and to do post-spray checks to determine if repeat applications are needed. More intensive monitoring would involve weekly sampling and 50 uprights/field. The 30% action threshold is one based on work from Wisconsin and the more conservative of two published thresholds – the other being 50%. Since tipworm impact on BC cranberries is still not fully understood future work to determine an appropriate action threshold is recommended.

## Research Priorities 2009

The Research Committee under the Chairmanship of Todd May, has established priorities for 2009. The priority list is designed to identify some of the difficult production issues facing growers and to encourage the research community to propose projects to find solutions to those problems.

The Committee said its high priorities include Girdler, Tipworm, Weevils, Black-headed Fireworm, Cranberry Dieback, and Perennial Weeds.

Medium priorities include Chemigation, Sparganthis Fruitworm, Dearness Scale, Pesticide Delivery Systems, Rodent Controls and Variety Development.

Longer Term objectives include Nutrient Management, Organic Production and Industry Innovations.

Approved projects are funded by grower levies and by grants from the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC.



## BCSAWP Update for 2009

WALI once again represented the BC agriculture industry at the BC Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (BCSAWP) Annual Regional Meetings held in Vancouver October 20-21 and the Annual Intergovernmental Review Meeting for the Mexico-Canada SAWP in Mexico City November 13-14, 2008.

These meetings are crucial to the sustainability of SAWP; the year's statistics are reviewed, issues identified and discussed and proposals for the upcoming labour season are presented by industry and government stakeholders for inclusion in the 2009 BCSAWP Employment Agreement. Human Resources and Skills Development Canada sets the SAWP Wage rate in each province, (based on methodology that is currently under review). As a result of the meetings, the following changes have been implemented for 2009:

- The BCSAWP minimum wage rate for 2009 increases to \$9.09 per hour (vacation pay is extra); this applies to both the Mexico and the Commonwealth Caribbean BCSAWP.
- The 2009 accommodation deduction available to employers increases to \$536 per worker ONLY FOR THE BCSAWP COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT.

When applying for BCSAWP workers in 2009, make sure to advertise early and allow a minimum of two months from the time your application is submitted to Service Canada. Mexico is requesting 3 Months.

As always, using the WALI office will insure a complete and timely Labour Market Opinion and support industry efforts to keep BCSAWP as a viable choice for agricultural employers.

## WALI STRATEGIC PLANNING PROJECT UNDERWAY

The BC Agriculture Council, with project funding from Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC, has contracted Serecon Consulting to deliver a Strategic Plan to more accurately define WALI's role as the agriculture industry becomes more reliant on Temporary Foreign Workers as a labour choice.

The Strategy is intended to be part of a broader strategic plan for a human resources initiative for agriculture in BC. The WALI Steering Committee met with Serecon's consultants November 24 to review the work plan. Timelines are tight as the completed strategy is expected by the end of January 2009. The Strategy will define WALI's mandate and structure, potential client services, sustainable funding, growth management and effective labour issue management. In the meantime, WALI continues to facilitate BCSAWP and the Low Skill Program with Guatemala.

*BCSAWP Minimum  
Wage Rate for 2009  
Increases to \$9.09/hr  
Plus Vacation Pay*

*2009 Accommodation  
Deduction Increases to  
\$536/Worker in  
Mexico & Caribbean*

*Advertise Early*

*Call the WALI Office  
Toll Free at  
1-866-954-4450  
For More  
Information*





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## WALI Introduces Mi Tierra Holidays And Cruises

WALI would like to introduce Aurturo Hernandez and his team at Mi Tierra Holidays & Cruises to BCSAWP travel coordination. Mi Tierra has many years of experience booking business and tourism travel to Mexican destinations. As a travel agency and not an airline, MI Tierra will match current northbound Mex-BCSAWP airline fares while providing excellent client service and SAWP travel coordination; Located in downtown Vancouver, Mi Tierra’s phones are answered promptly every Monday to Friday by efficient and knowledgeable staff toll free at 1-877-689-5571

- Mi Tierra is also open Saturdays from Noon to 4:00 p.m.;
- Mi Tierra can arrange connecting flights to BC interior or Island destinations; return flights can be booked to regional airport destinations closer to worker’s hometowns in Mexico;
- Competition has positive consumer benefits; the introduction of Mi Tierra and Japan Airlines this fall has already reduced southbound airfares, saving employers up to \$160 ticket;
- Mi Tierra can book Mexicana northbound airfares at the same rate while increasing client service and booking availability;
- WALI members booking return flights though Mi Tierra using post-dated cheques will recover their WALI membership fee and more;

As WALI and Mi Tierra increase their percentage of BCSAWP client participation and travel bookings, future services such as group bus transportation from YVR to regional agricultural centers and more competitive airfare rates are achievable. This benefits the agriculture industry as a whole and ultimately employers. Call WALI for more information toll free at 1-866-954-4450.

### CANADIAN CRANBERRY GROWERS COALITION 2008 HEALTH RESEARCH PROJECTS UPDATE

The following abstracts are results of research projects directly funded by the CCGC. Project applications were submitted to and reviewed by the Cranberry Institute and recommended eligible for funding early in 2008.

**Nathalie Tufenkji, McGill U. Action of cranberry PACs against bacterial adhesion to biomaterials and mammalian cells: Implications for mitigation of UTI, Prostatitis, and Endocarditis.**

They have shown that cranberry PACs reduce adhesion of both Gram negative and Gram positive bacteria to materials used in production of urinary catheters. This work has been submitted to a technical journal for publication. A second aspect of the study is to assess PACs against selected cell lines, and this is underway, and will include their collaborators, including Amy. The last area involves establishing the metabolic response of Gram negative bacteria to exposure to cranberry PACs. These last two areas are expected to be completed soon.

**Steven Lipson, St. Francis College. Investigation into the anti-viral effects of store-purchased and pure cranberry juice drinks on the infectivity of rotavirus.**

This work continues underway, and is different from the earlier work which has been submitted for publication in that it uses a more clinically relevant rotavirus, instead of the reovirus used earlier. In addition, the current work involves a human epithelial host system, vs. the mouse cell line used in the earlier work. The emerging data report for the first time a visual documentation, via electron microscopy, of a mechanism for the inhibition or reduction of cranberry juice-associated rotavirus infectivity in a cell culture system.